

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically establishing a conference comprising:

receiving conference logistics, wherein the conference logistics comprise a participant communication address;

receiving participant profile data, wherein the participant profile data comprises participant communication addresses and a ~~current~~ current participant communication address addresses associated with the participant communication addresses;

allocating a conference bridge port to set up the conference in accordance with the conference logistics;

after allocating the conference bridge port to set up the conference, extracting the participant communication address from the conference logistics;

determining if the participant profile data includes the participant communication address extracted from the conference logistics;

if the participant profile data includes the participant communication address extracted from the conference logistics,

~~after extracting the participant communication address, if the current participant communication address from the participant profile data differs from the participant communication address from the conference logistics, then updating the extracted participant communication address~~ extracted from the conference logistics with the a current participant communication address from the participant profile data associated with the participant communication address;

initiating a connection to the conference based on the current participant communication address;

playing an option to accept or refuse the connection to the conference; and
connecting a communications switch port to the allocated conference bridge port.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the conference logistics further comprises receiving a start date and a connect time.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein allocating a bridge port is performed in accordance with a number of conference participants in accordance with the conference logistics.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the communications switch port is associated with the current participant communication address.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the participant profile data comprises at least two of the current participant communication address, a home address, an office address, and a wireless address.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the communications switch port comprises a telephone switch port.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the participant communication address and the current participant communication address each comprises a telephone number.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein connecting a communications switch port to the allocated conference bridge port takes place in accordance with the start date and connect time reflected in the conference logistics.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the participant communication address comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) address.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving conference logistics comprises receiving subsequent input to a DTMF menu.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving conference logistics comprises receiving a formatted file comprising labeled conference provisioning information.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving conference logistics comprises receiving subscriber input to a form displayed on a client device.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a participant responds with a DTMF tone to accept or refuse a connection to the conference.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically establishing a conference comprising:

receiving conference logistics, wherein the conference logistics comprise a participant communication address;

receiving participant profile data, wherein the participant profile data comprises participant communication addresses and a current current participant communication address addresses associated with the participant communication addresses;

creating a conference record in accordance with the conference logistics;
maintaining conference containers indicative of how the conference record will be processed;

allocating a conference bridge port to set up the conference in accordance with the conference logistics;

after allocating the conference bridge port to set up the conference,
extracting a participant communication address from the conference logistics;
determining if the participant profile data includes the participant
communication address extracted from the conference logistics;
if the participant profile data includes the participant communication
address extracted from the conference logistics,
~~after extracting the participant communication address, if the current~~
~~participant communication address from the participant profile data differs from the~~
~~participant communication address from the conference logistics,~~ then updating the
extracted participant communication address extracted from the conference logistics with
the a current participant communication address from the participant profile data
associated with the participant communication address;
initiating a connection to the conference based on the current participant
communication address;
playing an option to accept or refuse the connection to the conference; and
connecting a communications switch port to the allocated conference
bridge port.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the conference
containers indicate whether the conference record should be allocated the conference
bridge port and connected immediately, whether the conference record should be
allocated the conference bridge port only, or whether the conference record should be
connected only.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein receiving the
conference logistics further comprises receiving a start date and a connect time.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein allocating a bridge port is performed in accordance with a number of conference participants in accordance with the conference logistics.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the communications switch port is associated with the current participant communication address.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the participant profile data comprises at least two of the current participant communication address, a home address, an office address, and a wireless address.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the communications switch port comprises a telephone switch port.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the participant communication address and the current participant communication address each comprises a telephone number.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein connecting a communications switch port to the allocated conference bridge port takes place in accordance with the start date and connect time reflected in the conference logistics.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the participant communication address comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) address.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein receiving conference logistics comprises receiving subscriber input to a DTMF menu.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein receiving conference logistics comprises receiving a formatted file comprising labeled conference provision information.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein receiving conference logistics comprises receiving subscriber input to a form displayed on a client device.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein a participant responds with a DTMF tone to accept or refuse a connection to the conference.